

The first evidence of what Gwen is doing right is found in the fact that she has one of the largest Parent Volunteer programs at the school every year. High school students, parents, and grandparents enjoy volunteering in her classroom because she makes them feel rewarded for helping out.

In addition to getting involved, many parents have also voiced their appreciation for the excellent way in which Gwen Sessions educates their children. Said one student's mother, "It's always scary turning your child over to their first teacher. It didn't take long, however, for our family to learn to completely trust, respect, and appreciate Mrs. Sessions for all her wonderful gifts she has to offer." Remarkd another mother, "The first time I entered Mrs. Sessions kindergarten classroom I know my daughter was in the best hands possible." One parent and long-time instructional aide puts it this way, "I feel her empathy with people and her desire to inspire others has made the difference in countless lives. She puts her heart and soul into her daily task of making the beginnings of our children's many years in school a joy."

As a final and perhaps supreme tribute, another mother has said, "She makes learning exciting and brings even the shyest of children out of their shell. . . . I know we will look back in years to come and say, This teacher made a difference between success and failure."

Congress has made improving education a top priority. As we continue searching for ways to better the educational system, we need to look at the positive things happening in schools across the country. I believe that Gwen Sessions is an excellent example of what is right with America's schools.

To my friend Gwen Sessions, the Rocklin Unified School District Elementary School Teacher of the Year, I say, "Thank you and congratulations on a job well done! Keep up the good work."

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LEARNING DISABILITIES MONTH AND THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, for millions of children with learning disabilities in this country, the future is brighter than any other time in this nation's history. That's because we know today what works for children learning to read. This is important because 90 percent of children with learning disabilities have difficulty with reading.

Learning disabilities, or LD, are neurological disorders that affect people's ability to read, write, compute and participate fully in society. The good news is that if LD is identified early, before the age of nine, the majority of children can work up to their potential. Without early detection, the statistics are sobering.

Thirty-five percent of students identified with learning disabilities drop out of high school.

Fifty percent of juvenile delinquents tested were found to have undetected LD. When of-

fered remedial services, their recidivism rates dropped to below 2 percent.

According to the Office of the Inspector General, learning disabilities and substance abuse are the most common impediments to keeping welfare recipients from becoming and remaining employed.

I have been working with learning disabilities issues in Congress for many years, from identifying educational needs, to calling for additional resources and promoting national policies that take into account the concerns of people with LD.

Important progress has been achieved over the last two decades in identifying and treating children with learning disabilities. This is critical, because our nation is in the grip of a monumental and global change. As opposed to previous generations when the United States was primarily an agricultural and manufacturing-based country, our brave new world of technology has elevated information processing as a required skill in today's workers. And the future will only demand more information technology workers across every profession as the global community expands and competition for enterprise increases.

This is why early identification of children with reading problems, and applying proven strategies to enable them to read, is fundamental to the future success of this great country's economy. More importantly, it is essential for the success of our children and our children's self esteem.

Today, in recognition of National Learning Disabilities Month, the National Center for Learning Disabilities is launching a new initiative aimed at beginning readers. The "Get Ready to Read" program will assess the reading progress of children ages four to five. It will target those at risk for reading failure and provide enrichment activities to strengthen their skills. Parents, teachers, and pediatricians will be involved in creating a "constellation of care" around a child, effectively making sure that early on, before the cycle failure and defeat wreaks its damage, that the child is provided help. And you, no doubt, will hear from your constituents as this program progresses, because an important component of "Get Ready to Read" is for parents and others to keep their legislators apprised of issues affecting young children with reading problems.

Reading is a basic building block in participating fully in society. In this country of opportunity and promise, we owe it to our children to make sure they learn to read, and read well. I applaud this effort by the National Center for Learning Disabilities to help our youngest Americans to hope, to learn and to succeed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4205, FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, last year's Defense Appropriations Act (FY 00) contained \$10 mil-

lion for the specific purpose of improving the safeguards for storing classified material held by Department of Defense contractors. It is with deep regret that I must report that the Pentagon refused to release these funds which expired on September 30, 2000. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Information, Arthur Money, sent me and a number of other House and Senate members a letter on why the Pentagon chose to ignore the direction of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, beyond the fact that the Clinton/Gore Administration defied the law, their rationale for not complying with a federal security standard is troubling and their basis unfounded. First, on the issue of cost, DOD claims that upgrading existing security containers controlled by contractors by replacing old vulnerable mechanical locks with electronic locks that meet minimum federal security standards (FFL-2740A) would be cost prohibitive. The referenced report of the Joint Security Commission II sites an industry estimate from five contractors that is based on an inflated retail price of the electronic lock which is popularly called the "X07" or "X08" lock, rather than the wholesale price which would be the price of the lock in this upgrade program. This is not the first time that DOD has overestimated the cost of the program in an effort to resist implementation. In 1993, DOD grossly overestimated the cost of upgrading its own mechanical locks at \$500 million, but the internal upgrade only actually cost \$59 million. Based on the number of classified containers held by defense contractors, a lock upgrade program would cost between \$45 million and \$60 million, depending upon how the program was managed.

Secondly, on the issue of threat Mr. Speaker, the physical security threat to classified materials that exists with these 1950's vintage mechanical locks cannot be overstated. The threat is why the GSA established a federal standard in 1989 that requires locks on secure containers to withstand an attempt of twenty man-hours of surreptitious entry. Currently, an "insider" or foreign agent with readily available technology can determine the combination of a mechanical lock in a matter of minutes. Since this "safe cracking" can be done without detection on a mechanical lock, no one would ever know that an "insider" possessed the combination to access classified information including sensitive computer hard drives, laptops and access codes. To combat this problem, all new secure containers are fitted with the X08 lock (the only lock that meets the federal standard), but there are still thousands of mechanical lock containers and, worse yet, bar-locked file cabinets that are being used by contractors to protect our nation's classified information. Until all existing secure containers are upgraded with modern electronic locks, gaping security lapses will continue. No perimeter security apparatus involving guns, gates, guards, alarms, check points and other physical security barriers will protect against the "insider" threat to antiquated mechanical locks.

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) has identified 27 foreign intelligence organizations that have the capability to penetrate these old mechanical locks without leaving a visible

trace. These espionage organizations would likely use "insider" agents for this purpose. In fact, Mr. Money's view that the "insider" threat is of greater concern than the threat of covert entry to a safe or vault is precisely why the electronic lock upgrade is needed. The X07/X08 lock now possesses features that help ensure accountability and control access. More importantly, the lock also has the capability to be equipped with a time/date stamp feature which would automatically record who entered the safe and when. This audit trail feature is already used with great success by large corporations. By adding this feature to the federal requirements, we add another important counter espionage tool to this virtually impenetrable lock.

I certainly understand the many competing interests that DOD must juggle within a constrained budget, but I cannot accept the Pentagon's view of contractor lock upgrades as being unnecessary, cost prohibitive or without commensurate security benefit. The growing volumes of classified information contained in moveable media (i.e. laptop computers, hard drives, back-up tapes, etc.) that is used by the national security agencies and their contractors, and the need to properly secure this classified material, cannot be pushed aside as a trivial matter. If the Department of Defense shows leadership in the proper handling of classified material, I'm certain that government and contractor employees will take a more serious attitude toward the proper stewardship of the Nation's secrets. The United States cannot afford another security lapse like the missing NEST hard drives at Los Alamos or the missing laptops at the State Department.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNET PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing bipartisan legislation to help protect consumers from sham sales of prescription drugs over the Internet. Oversight hearings held earlier this year in the Committee on Commerce exposed real problems for consumers. Unscrupulous tactics by some sellers using the Internet must be stopped. The bill is focused on one objective—to allow folks to use the Internet as a useful tool for legitimate sales of prescription drugs.

The bill will do a number of things to enhance protection. First, the bill requires interstate Internet sellers of prescription drugs to disclose important information on their web sites and to State licensing boards. This will improve the reliability of consumer transactions and make it easier for State and Federal enforcement officials to patrol for illegal sellers.

Second, the bill enhances the authority of State attorneys general to seek injunctions against interstate Internet sellers that violate disclosure requirements or certain provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

Third, the bill enhances Federal authority to restrain the disposal of property that is traceable to certain provisions of the act.

Finally, the bill provides for public education about the dangers of unscrupulous Internet prescription drug sellers who fail to follow the law.

Senators JEFFORDS and KENNEDY are introducing an identical companion bill in the other body. This bipartisan legislation has the support of the National Association of Attorneys General, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the National Consumer League, and Drugstore.com.

I ask my colleagues to support this important measure.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND CONGRATULATIONS FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO MABEL GRIF- FITH LEGG ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mabel Griffith Legg on her 100th birthday and to thank her for becoming a teacher and sharing her life with countless numbers of students during her career. She was born October 6, 1900 on a farm near Athens, Texas and graduated from Palestine High School.

Mabel Legg moved to Waco, Texas, in my Central Texas congressional district, in the 1920s. She passed the teacher certification test during her junior year of high school and later earned her bachelor and master of arts degrees from Baylor University. She taught high school English and directed plays for 26 years at the Waco State Home and for another 14 years at La Vega High School. Through her inspiration many hundreds of her students have made significant contributions to our nation and humanity. She has been a longtime member of Highland Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school for 25 years and where she is still active in Sunday school and Bible study.

I ask members to join me in honoring Mabel Griffith Legg for devoting her lifetime to teaching others and to congratulate her on her 100th birthday. Congratulations and happy birthday, Ms. Legg.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4205, FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DE- FENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4205, the Floyd Spence National Defense Authorization Act. It might strike some as odd that I support the Authorization conference report after I opposed the Appropriations bill, and I wanted to spell out why.

Admittedly, I have some disappointment with parts of H.R. 4205:

Base Realignment and Closure Commission—H.R. 4205 does not include funding for two new BRAC rounds, despite the fact that the pentagon has estimated it has an excess base capacity of 23 percent. CBO estimates that two new BRAC rounds would save the Defense Department \$4.7 billion by 2010, and that after completion in 2012, DOD could realize recurring savings of about \$4 billion per year which could then be re-channeled toward better training, readiness and quality of life initiatives. It is my hope that Congress sees fit to include a Base Closure round in next year's bill.

Choice of Aircraft—H.R. 4205 includes funding for research, development and procurement of three different fighter planes (the Navy's F-18 E/F, The Air Force F-22, and the Navy & Air Force Joint Strike Fighter) when there is not a strong consensus that all three fighters are necessary. Some defense experts say the military needs the F-18 and F-22. Some say it needs the JSF instead. Congress' answer is simply to fund all of the fighter planes in question, at the expense of other aircraft (specifically bombers and unmanned aerial aircraft [UAVs]) that, while less glamorous, could prove more useful, while costing much less money and American lives.

Colombia—I have deep reservations about the decision to drop a provision in the House-passed bill that would establish a limit of 500 on the number of U.S. military personnel authorized to be on duty in the Republic of Colombia at any one time. I think that it would be a serious mistake for the U.S. to allow itself to get involved in a civil war in Colombia.

But the conference report does include some very important items:

Health Care Improvement—There are thousands of military retirees in the First District of South Carolina. Each of these retirees was once either a draftee or a recruit. They did their duty with the understanding that after 20 years of service, they were to have access to quality health care when they retired, and that that access would continue for the rest of their lives. That has not been the case. The Defense conference report extends Tricare to military retirees beyond age 65 as a supplement to Medicare. It is my hope that eventually Congress may move to a voucher system, in which the government ensures that vets get the care they deserve, without the accompanying bureaucracy and waiting periods. Any military retiree could simply get health care at the facility of their choice, and then be reimbursed.

Readiness Funding—I'm concerned about the Administration's lack of a coherent national defense strategy. Our men and women in uniform have been dispatched across the globe in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations that are not in the national interest. This is wearing out our soldiers and equipment. Aircraft mission capability rates have declined, spare parts shortages continue, and recruiting and retention of quality personnel has become a major challenge. These problems have left the military less prepared to defend real national interests. The conference report to H.R. 4205 provides an additional \$1.2 billion for critical readiness funding. I would prefer that